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February 7, 2005

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

On Friday, February 4, 2005, undersigned counsel and Steven Chernoff, on behalf of the Alliance of Rural CMRS Carriers ("ARC"), met with Commissioner Abernathy and Jennifer Manner to discuss the Commission's upcoming action in the above-referenced docket.

We discussed ARC members' success in bringing health/safety and economic development benefits to rural areas with high-cost support, and reaffirmed the need for wireless carriers to continue to receive high-cost support under competitively neutral universal service rules. We also affirmed positions taken in the comments filed by ARC in this proceeding. Finally, we discussed the need for the Commission to provide states with clear direction that additional conditions placed on grants of ETC status be related to the purposes of universal service. No written materials were provided at the meeting.

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If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David A. LaFuria". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent.

David A. LaFuria

cc: Hon. Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Jennifer Manner, Esq.